



July 1, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW., Room 736-E
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) was pleased to see the recent infusion of \$500 million to help bolster the foundation for prevention and expand the utilization of clinical and community preventive services. However, we were deeply disappointed that a historic opportunity to recognize and support the unique role preventive medicine physicians bring to bear in efforts to expand access to clinical and community preventive services through multiple health systems and across all populations, was missed.

ACPM represents nearly 2,500 preventive medicine physicians who sit at the nexus of clinical medicine and public health and provide leadership in communities or health settings that bridge the gap between these two fields. In addition to addressing health problems in one-on-one interactions with patients, preventive medicine physicians are trained to address health problems on a population, or community-wide basis.

ACPM lent its support to the Affordable Care Act and was a strong proponent of efforts to establish a Prevention and Public Health Fund. As created by Congress, the Fund was intended to support programs authorized by the Public Health Service Act (PHA), for prevention, wellness and public health activities. While preventive medicine residency training programs have enjoyed a long-standing authorization under Section 768 of the PHA, our training programs have been woefully under funded for many years.

With enactment of the Affordable Care Act, Congress signaled its interest in promoting the preventive medicine physician workforce by expanding the current funding authorization. We urge that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) join Congress in recognizing the critical role preventive medicine physicians play in building a strong foundation for prevention and that you work to provide a minimum of \$5 million for preventive medicine residency training programs in the FY 2012 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark B. Johnson, MD, MPH, FACPM
President